

Over 500 schools from 42 counties in the state participate in the California Academic Decathlon, which promotes education and teamwork.

The championship team from the Travis Unified School District in Solano County was led by Head Coach David Kenyon and included Team Members Erin Campos, Aleena Syed, Abdul Hassan, Nicolai McCrary, Elise Campos, Julieanne Cunningham, David Crowell, Adrian Bullock, and Tanya Campos.

Not only did the Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team win the State Title, becoming the first Solano County School to achieve such a feat; they broke the Division II scoring record by amassing a grand total of 45,372 points. The Team also won the State Super Quiz Title.

Prior to competing statewide, Vanden High School's Academic Decathlon Team won the first ever North Bay Regional Competition and also won the regional Super Quiz Title.

The theme for the statewide competition was climatology and China. The students were required to answer questions relating to math, art, music, and history.

The Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team and coach put in numerous hours, including their lunch periods, to prepare for the regional and statewide competitions. This speaks volumes of their dedication to learn and work as a team.

While several of the members will be graduating and moving on to college, they should take pride in the solid foundation they help build and the standard they set.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Vanden High School Academic Decathlon Team for their monumental achievements and for bringing the State Academic Decathlon Title to Solano County. They represented their school and community extremely well. Go Vikings!

#### TAIWAN'S WHO MEMBERSHIP

### HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, the government of Taiwan recently submitted a membership application to the World Health Organization. Since the objective of the WHO is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health," Taiwan's 23 million people must be considered. For years now, Taiwan has had no representation in the World Health Organization, which is a gross injustice due to Taiwan's health needs and Taiwan's potential contribution to the global health network.

I support Taiwan's bid for membership and urge my colleagues to openly voice their support for Taiwan. At a minimum, Taiwan should be granted observer status at the World Health Assembly this May.

Though Taiwan is now applying to the World Health Organization under the name of "Taiwan," it does not mean there is any change to Taiwan's national status. Taiwan continues to be the same country as before and its Constitution has not changed. The use of the name "Taiwan" represents a fresh start for the people of Taiwan and is commonly used around the world. Applying for WHO

membership under the new name is consistent with Taiwan's past campaign for observer status in the World Health Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to lend their support to Taiwan's WHO application. No country should belittle Taiwan's sincere intent to be included in the global health network. Taiwan's bid to become a WHO member is too important to be sidetracked by political disagreements because disease knows no boundaries. It is time for China to drop its objections to Taiwan's bid and welcome the 23 million Taiwanese people to the World Health Organization. Taiwan has much to contribute to the health system in China and to all the countries in the world. Taiwan looks forward to fulfilling its obligations as a responsible global citizen and working with international health institutions through medical cooperation and emergency humanitarian work.

#### A TRIBUTE TO OPRAH WINFREY

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I heartily join in congratulating Oprah Winfrey, who has been named the recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, a venerable institution that combats indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs.

Oprah Winfrey is such a visible figure in popular culture that her first name alone is iconic. The recognition she has earned through her talk show, acting, writing and various media enterprises has made her one of America's most recognizable people. And to her everlasting credit, she has put this visibility to good use in support of worthy causes.

A high-profile public figure who dedicates herself to helping the less-fortunate, Oprah sets an example for those of us in the public eye. She provides an inspiring model of the pursuit of meaning, hope, and fulfillment to millions. And as someone who has chosen children as the main focus of her philanthropy and her public service, she sets an example for all adults: Children are the bedrock foundation of our society, our chance for a more peaceful and healthy society, but because they are the least able to help themselves, they need and deserve our greatest efforts. As a grandfather of 17 wonderful grandchildren, I believe the message Oprah sends about kids is the most profound of all.

Motivated by this desire to help children in need, she founded The Oprah Winfrey Foundation in 1987. Since then, the foundation has made grants to organizations that support women and children around the world, providing education, training, and access to crucial resources. I laud Oprah's decision to focus the foundation internationally, not just in the United States. With our resources and our technology, we have a solemn responsibility to lift up the destitute in the rest of the world.

And The Oprah Winfrey Foundation demonstrates that private U.S. interests can combine with both governments and non-governmental organizations to foster that goal. I am particularly impressed that Oprah has also

used an inspirational partnership model in raising money. Oprah's Angel Network leverages her audiences as potential donors, with all the money they give going to NGOs that build schools, youth centers, and homes around the world. Her devotion to schoolgirls in South Africa is simply amazing. She has given so much money and time to the construction of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls to ensure that it will succeed, that those girls will succeed, and that South African society will improve from their education.

On a personal level, I am touched and grateful that Oprah has partnered with Elie Wiesel never to let us forget the Holocaust, the most horrible and harrowing moment in history and one to which Elie and I were witnesses. It speaks to Oprah's singular empathy that someone whose focus is often on modern-day trauma and travesty can so adeptly shine a light on the past. Simply the act of choosing Wiesel's classic "Night" for her book club spoke volumes. But her televised visit to Auschwitz with Wiesel last year made it real for everyone.

Indeed, Oprah has that uncanny and unparalleled ability to not just bring human experience in front of our eyes, but to make us feel it. And her desire and commitment to translating into public service the human capacity to feel for others is deserving of the deepest honor.

HONORING FAIRFAX COUNTY VIRGINIA POLICE DETECTIVE VICKY ANNE OWEN ARMEL AND MASTER POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL E. GARBARINO

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize two police officers from nearby Fairfax County, Virginia who served their community with great honor and distinction. Today marks the first anniversary of when Detective Vicky Anne Owen Armel and Master Police Officer Michael E. Garbarino were shot in the line of duty during a shooting incident at the Sully District Police Station in Chantilly, Virginia.

Detective Armel was killed while engaging and exchanging gunfire with the shooter. Master Police Officer Garbarino succumbed on May 17, 2006 to injuries sustained when the shooter opened fire on him in the Station's parking lot. Despite being shot five times, Master Police Officer Garbarino managed to get on the police radio to notify and warn fellow officers. The two line-of-duty slayings were the first in the 66-year history of the 1,364-member Fairfax County Police Department.

Detective Vicky Armel, badge 2806, spent 17 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer, eight years with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, and the last nine with the Fairfax County Police Department. Detective Armel is remembered for many things, including her devotion to family, faith, and an upbeat and positive attitude.

Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino, badge 1417, spent 23 years as a dedicated law enforcement officer with the Fairfax County Police Department. MPO Garbarino, also

known as “Gabby,” was admired and respected by those who knew and worked with him. He is remembered for his devotion to family, faith, willingness to lend a helping hand, and his sense of humor.

Both are missed every day by family, friends, fellow officers, and citizens of the community. Both are remembered as mentors and role models. The courage, honor and valor exemplified by Detective Armel and MPO Garbarino serve as a reminder for us to remember, celebrate and thank police officers and first responders for their dedication and service to the community and our Nation.

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SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I rise today in support of Taiwan's inclusion in the World Health Organization (WHO).

Taiwan has one of the most developed health care systems in the world and has a strong, proven record on controlling infectious diseases. It was the first Asian State to eliminate polio and has successfully eradicated smallpox, rabies and malaria.

Because our world is increasingly interconnected, exclusion of Taiwan from the international community is neither logical nor appropriate. Every year, travelers make over forty million international trips through Taiwan. With the rapid spread of diseases, one vulnerable site constitutes a vulnerability for us all; one weak link in the international health front puts at risk all our efforts.

Madam Speaker, the WHO has excluded Taiwan because Communist China claims that its health care system will protect Taiwan. Past experience has convinced me that this is not the case. When an earthquake struck Taiwan in 1999, Communist China refused to allow assistance teams to fly through its airspace. This unreasonable restriction cost these assistance teams hours of flying time and may have cost lives. During the SARS outbreak in 2003, Communist China took days to report the Taiwan cases, which also cost lives.

For these and other reasons I rise in full support of Taiwan's application to be included in the World Health Organization.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 7, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed roll call votes Nos. 302, 303, and 304. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO GAY CHIONSINI

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gay Chionsini, a unique and caring friend that I personally had the pleasure of working with in the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce. Gay enjoyed a wonderful career with the Chamber and after nearly three decades of outstanding service decided to retire on April 30, 2007. Gay ended her career much the same way she started, as the face of the organization to all of its members and the community at-large. Like many others who have contributed to our community-based organizations and chambers all over Texas, Gay built strong relationships and a wealth of goodwill in and outside of the Beaumont business community. Gay's hard work, wisdom and dedication were critical in the day to day operation of the chamber and the achievement of its future goals.

Gay has had a distinguished 28 year career working for the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce and during that time served as the membership sales director, projects manager, office manager, executive secretary to the president, assistant to the director of public affairs, and secretary to the director of transportation. Gay and I had the pleasure of working together in the 1980's and I can tell you from first hand experience Gay was the consummate team player and I can not think of a better ambassador to the Beaumont community than Gay Chionsini.

It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend Gay Chionsini for her 28 years of service to the Beaumont area, and wish her and her family the very best in retirement.

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TRIBUTE TO THE CENTER FOR WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2007*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

This Denver-based Center has helped thousands of severely disadvantaged adults prepare for, maintain, and retain employment.

For 25 years, the Center's volunteers and employees have provided a full-time job readiness program, evening computer classes, and preparation for General Education Development tests for residents of the Denver area living below the poverty line. For those who need more than job training, the Center for Work Education and Employment provides instruction in life skills, builds relationships with potential employers, and helps participants deal with personal issues and obstacles.

Their continued 25-year commitment to the community is an inspiration. The Center helps thousands to turn their life around by breaking free of public assistance and becoming independent productive citizens. This work is vital

to the Denver area and is a model for caring citizens giving back to their community.

I applaud, and am grateful for, the work and dedication of the Center for Work Education and Employment on the 25th anniversary of their founding. They have enriched the Denver community and changed the lives of thousands and I look forward to another 25 years.

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RECOGNIZING AND WELCOMING THE LEADERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 7, 2007*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the rich heritage and important contributions made to our Nation by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

I thank Congressman HONDA and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for organizing this evening's special order.

Born and raised in the diverse city of Los Angeles, California, I have been blessed with friendships and experiences that have given me a deep respect and appreciation of the unique cultures and customs of our AAPI communities.

That respect and appreciation has grown even greater as a member of Congress honored to represent many of these communities, including Little Tokyo, Chinatown, and historic Filipinotown.

The American dream for Asian American Pacific Islanders is the same as for all Americans: Freedom, justice, respect and the opportunity for a better life.

This year's commemoration theme—“Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007”—unfortunately highlights the sad reality that, while generations of Asian American and Pacific Islanders have a long history of fighting to protect our country in time of war, contributing to the strength of our Nation's economy and enriching our lives with the beauty of their culture and customs, like too many other communities in our country, they continue to face the obstacles of discrimination and racism in pursuit of their American dream.

Eliminating these barriers and honoring the contributions of the AAPI communities is a top priority for me, my colleagues and our new Democratic majority.

We will continue to work to successfully: Pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill that is fair and just; eliminate health disparities by expanding health care coverage and removing linguistic and cultural barriers to quality care; honor our veterans by adequately funding veterans programs and restoring the benefits denied to so many veterans, including the thousands of Filipinos who bravely fought in the U.S. Military during World War II; Provide small business with the tools needed to encourage entrepreneurial innovation, which will help the AAPI and other vulnerable communities develop new business ventures that will create jobs and economic prosperity; and